

May 20, 1999

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XX , No. 8

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd ST. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific HWY. S....turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, May 20, 1999..7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (Doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item-lot-per- member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..member sell & trade tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting/program.) <u>PROGRAM:</u> Reports on our April 24th Show, Swap & Sale.

1999 SHOW MUSINGS...FACTS...AND THANKS:

First, the thanks:to all of you who helped out at the door and off loading area. To those members who took the time to put up such nice displays all I can say is GREAT..lets do it again next year!

The Show Committee Chairman would like to give a special thanks to your P.S.P.C.S. Show Committee. Mike Immel, Assistant Show Director who did all the hard jobs. Ed Frey and Dave Wombacker who "spread the word" about the show. Besides our ads they got us a feature article or two and many mentions on Seattle radio. Bill Adams had great signs. Dick Boress did the hospitality room. Don Tempel & Don Friend were in charge of our fine displays. Ray Kirlin & Darrell Womack designed and made our Show button. Darrell also organized and mailed 4,000 post cards advertizing the show. Marv Olsen kept the Puyallup Fire Dept. happy. Gene Raddatz prepared the show packets and oversaw a most smooth offloading & sign-in time. Gary Sivertson was in charge of registration. Dave Studebaker handled our door prizes. Bob Kelly was our badge man. And, Shirley Sparrow kept us all straight and paid all the bills. THANK YOU ALL!!!!

This years show, our 19th, seemed to go very smoothly but we did have about 100 fewer buyers this year. The great weather may have been part of the reason. We will let you know at the meeting how we did financially. Buyers and sellers generally seemed happy with how they did...again, the collectors of vintage items found some treasures. Next year we will give our ticket takers badges ahead of time. Ok, Maxine? It was most enjoyable to see out-of-the-area members like Mary & Bill Carroll, the people from Japan, Mike Kessler, the "Portland people". Bud & Barry from Montana, John Johnston, Olivia Kissin, Chuck & Sara Meyer, Jim Olds, Joe Veal, Ben Melton and Mike Symons to name just a few. In fact, that may be the best part of our Show...the people!

PRESIDENT DAVE STUDEBAKER COMMENTS ON TNT ARTICLE:

THE FINEST CAMERA COLLECTION IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON? HARDLY! I enjoyed being featured in the article (TNT April 21) and appreciate the time Bart Ripp took out of his busy schedule to put it all together. However, I do not consider my collection to be the best in the state and that comment embarassed me and I would like to apologize to Ray Kirlin, Dick Weber, Gary Sivertsen, Don Temple, Bill Kimber and all the rest of the members with beautiful collections. So, to those of you who read The Morning News Tribune, please accept my apology. Bart Ripp is a very thorough interviewer, but in no way did I imply that I had the best collection West of the Great Divide. Sincerely, Dave.

**\*\*BACKSIDE INFORMATION\*\***

The April 15th meeting of P.S.P.C.S. came to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 39 members and guests in attendance. Minutes of March meeting were approved as corrected to show date of April 15th. Treasurer reported show money was coming in. Shirley also reported that a conversation with Jim McKeown established that he will NOT have a 1999-2000 issue of McKeown's Price Guide but will have a 2000-2001 issue coming out in late 1999, or early 2000.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mike Immel had nothing new to report on our October inter-club show. The Show Committee reported that all was going well...Dave Studebaker was interviewed by the TNT and Bill Kimber gave a phone interview to the Seattle Times. Ads are in and postcards are mailed. There are 159 sellers of which 13 are new. Hospitality room is all set.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Merle Carey reported that KCTS Public TV now has digital transmitter on line, Channel 41. Channel 9 store has tape running if you want to see what it looks like.

**PROGRAM:**

Consisted of reports on recent Portland and Vancouver B.C. Shows. Portland was again good for sellers; it is a show worth doing. Vancouver Show was well attended but had no air conditioning which seemed to cause quite a few people to leave early.

**SHOW & TELL:**

Six members brought interesting articles for Show & Tell. The new Mrs. Bass showed a Hot Wheels racing car, with Kodak markings, received as a wedding gift. (Lots of authentic noise and action!)

**AUCTION:**

Five items were auctioned for a total of \$36.00. The sixth item did not sell.

**DOOR PRIZE:**

Mike Langley won an Ansel Adams book.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 for selling, conversation and nummie munching.

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**FUTURE NORTHWEST CAMERA SHOWS:**

Sat. June 19th Gresham Camera Swap Meet. Info. Krystal White (503) 239-8912.

Sat. October 2nd Eugene, Oregon Info. Mike Hanemann..PO Box 22374 Milwaukie, OR 97269.

Sunday November 7th Vancouver Camera Show. Info. Siggi (604) 941-0300.

Sat. November 13th Pro Photo Supply Fall Camera Swap Meet. Info. 1-800-835-3314.



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**THE BELLOWS** Newsletter is published 9 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/eureka/park/3740/>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

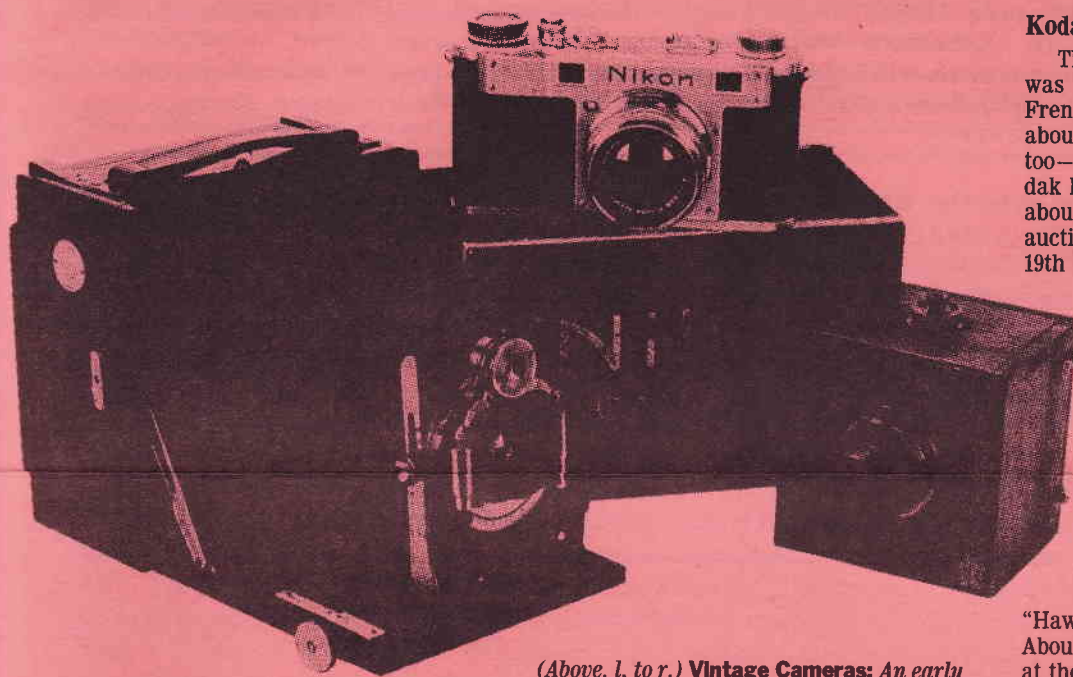
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PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (253) 582-4878

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# Developing Interest in Old Cameras



(Above, l. to r.) **Vintage Cameras:** An early Lizards 'Tropical Challenge' camera, a Nikon M, with box, that sold for \$5,300, a circa-1865 Dubroni 'instant' camera that sold for \$1,518.

## Polaroids, Nikons and Brownies Earn New Fans, Respect; Got a 1930s Leica Luxus?

By EILEEN KINSELLA  
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**M**OST PEOPLE BUY disposable cameras for about \$10 apiece, use them and pitch them. Not Eaton Lothrop.

Mr. Lothrop, a retired New York schoolteacher, keeps them. In fact, he has a collection of 1,300 of them, including promotional disposable cameras from Mercedes and M&M's, and even a Kraft "Velveeta Shells and Cheese Dinner" camera that is now worth \$28 in the collector's market.

"Basically, I'm a historian of photography," says Mr. Lothrop, the author of three books on the field. And what he values most are "the cameras that brought the average person into photography," the ones used to "capture the moment."

As photography has been taken more seriously as an art form, camera collecting has soared in popularity. Early this year, when auction house Christie's International PLC in London put 312 cameras and other photographic equipment on the auction block, 96% of the items sold, raising \$411,633. It wasn't just 19th-century relics of history fetching the top prices: The highlight of the sale was a rare 1940s Leica "stereo photography" lens set that sold for \$40,000—about four times the presale price estimate.

An even more recent artifact, an early Polaroid, model 185 from the early 1960s, could bring between \$300 and \$400 today, dealers say. Why? Production of the camera, which had an above-average quality lens and shutter combination, was limited, boosting its value, says Ken Riley, a Pittsburgh dealer who sells cameras over the Internet.

But for real price appreciation, consider a Kodak folding "Gift" camera, which came in a range of colors but was manufactured for only about a year, circa 1931. A hefty \$15 in those depression-era times, it now brings \$1,500.

### A Passion for Pictures

What possesses people to buy old cameras? Martin May, a dentist in Haddon Heights, N.J., began attending camera shows 20 years ago and has been collecting ever since. He admires the craftsmanship of "anything pre-1860," he says. "I love the brass, the glass and chrome." His most prized pieces: daguerreotype cameras, from 1840 to 1860. Daguerreotypes were the first commercially successful form of photography, named for Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre of France, who invented the technique around 1830.

In the collectibles camera market, among the most sought-after pieces are German-made Zeiss cameras from shortly after the turn of the century and Leica cameras from the 1920s and 1930s. Other favorites: early 35-millimeter models made by Canon, and Nikons made in 1950, shortly after they were introduced.

For real finds, check the attic. "Many of the soldiers in World War II brought back cameras such as German Leicas," says Dr. May. Leicas are considered the van Goghs of the camera-collecting world.

A limited-edition Leica "Luxus" model, with gold plating and lizard skin, sold to noted Boston collector Jack Naylor for \$60,000 earlier this decade. Mr. Naylor, a camera collector for 40 years, has a private "museum of photographic history" with some 23,000 objects, including early daguerreotypes, rare 19th-century cameras and a large collection of spy cameras.

### Kodak Moments

The all-time auction record for any camera was set in 1995, when a late-19th-century French camera shaped like a revolver sold for about \$90,000. But Kodaks can be collectibles, too—if they're special enough. While most Kodak Brownies and Instamatics can be had for about \$25, a collector recently paid \$4,950 at auction for a Kodak "box" camera from the late 19th century. (Box cameras were the equivalent of modern-day disposable cameras; customers would return them to the factory after use, with a \$10 fee for developing.)

Other pricey Kodaks include the company's "Vanity" camera, which featured a case with rouge, lipstick and a mirror. In good condition, it can sell for as much as \$2,500. Another rarity: a 1917 World War I olive-drab Kodak with gun-metal finish, of which only about 100 were made. Value: about \$2,000.

So what about the old, reliable Kodak "Hawkeye Flash?" Don't get your hopes up. About "90% of those made were cheap cameras at the time they were made," says Jim McKeown, a Grantsburg, Wis., collector and author of McKeown's Price Guide to Antique and Classic Cameras. At the low end of the market, prices have hardly moved since the 1970s. "The average, run-of-the-mill Kodaks and Polaroids—the ones that were selling 25 years ago for \$5—still are," he says.

Old movie cameras also have their fans, but that audience is much more limited. Mr. Riley says turn-of-the-century movie cameras can fetch between \$1,500 and \$3,000. "They were pretty sophisticated for their time."

Film students and professors have recently shown interest in old super-8 movie cameras, Mr. Riley says, for shooting and collecting. Those are a bargain. Prices today don't get much higher than \$50—compared with the \$200 or so that companies charged for these cameras two to three decades ago, before the camcorder rendered them almost obsolete.

### Niche Market for Spy Cameras

Another kind of camera has its own expensive niche market: spy cameras.

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, more of these intriguing models have become available. Mr. McKeown admits to a weakness for subminiature cameras from Russia and East Germany used during the Cold War. His favorite is a spring motor-drive camera, built into a finger ring. He bought it about a year ago, for around \$10,000, from a dealer who got it from "the deep bowels of the Soviet Union," he says.

Mr. Naylor's favorite spy camera is a suit coat with a built-in camera that he says was used by the KGB. Photos are taken through a little button on the coat. "If you watch closely—and nobody ever does—the center of the button will open and close," Mr. Naylor says. He purchased the camera three years ago for about \$14,000.

How does he shop for spy cameras? "By climbing up fourth-floor walkups in Moscow," he says. "There are no dealers for these."



This year there were eleven exhibits shown by ten of our members who took advantage of the club's offer of cash prizes and a free exhibit table. There were originally eleven exhibitors but Shirley Sparrow came up with an untimely health problem and was unable to be at the show. Give it a go next year Shirll!!! Although the number of collections shown was down in numbers the same high standards and originality of ideas were there in abundance. A total of \$215 was awarded in cash with two first place winners declining cash awards. The competition within the six categories was fierce and there were two ties where equal prizes were awarded.

In no particular order here are the exhibits: MARVIN NAUMAN showed an amazing array of movie equipment from vintage to the latest technology. Of particular interest was a dual format projector and some anamorphic lenses. Marv always educates us in a very entertaining manner. STUART CURRY had two exhibits. One was a very original idea illustrating how two companies; Argus and Universal Camera Corp., developed their products at the same time. Stuart's theme was "Parallel Universe". A most timely and informative display. His other exhibit was Kodak diecast cars and paraphernalia. As Stuart pointed out, "Are you tired of searching for cameras that don't exist or that are not affordable? Try something different and still satisfy your need to collect things." A very clean and colorful exhibit. BOBBI and RALPH LONDON based their exhibit on an impressive full plate Anthony English Compact Style camera and accessories. Very straightforward but beautifully done. Of Particular interest was the lovely hand decorated camera case and the built in tripod base. BILL KIMBER continues to assemble fascinating displays from "THE KIMBER COLLECTION." This year the focus was on box cameras, but of what an assemblage of boxes. Spanning sixty years the collection showed craftsmanship, novelty, color, Art Deco and certainly rarity. A fine quality display. MIKE HANEMANN had a magnificent collection based on a No. 10 Cirkut camera and accessories. There was much to be seen here in addition to sheer size. The huge panoramic print was finished the day before. Mike was able to add the contact print frame at the show!! The fitted accessory case was truly beautiful. Another super exhibit based on one camera. DON FRIEND..assisted as always, by his lovely family, gave us another comprehensive look at the world of Alpa. A fine illustration of how, by concentrating on one maker, a fine collection can be assembled. Ask Don about how he has enlarged his collection by exhibiting at our show. Once again a great exhibit. JOHN JOHNSTON came up with the unique idea of showing "THE BACK OF THE BOOK--McKEOWNS" John showed four levels and more of colorful and varied paraphernalia from the back of McKeowns. Making the point again that an original idea can make for a very interesting display. From Barbie to the shirt and tie it was a collection to be proud of. JOHN WELCH combined cameras, catalogs and illustrations to show a fascinating look at Rochester Optical & Camera Co. If you were into large format this is where you went to get a 14 X 17 ideal or a full plate Carleton or maybe a full featured King POCO. John showed them all and more in a very educational display. MILAN ZAMORCAK had a theme of "The Way We Were" a casual look at life at the turn of the century through the eye of a Pocket Kodak. This was an exhibit at which to spend time just absorbing the feeling of a photographer recording society (lower case) and getting an education on how to use a camera in that less hectic time. A meticulously prepared and artfully illustrated exhibit. BOB KELLY got help on the internet to assemble another very comprehensive look at Argus. Did you see that Dental C-2? Bob did an excellent job with fine display cases and descriptive annotations about a lot of rare Argus equipment.

The Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society sends sincere thanks to all who helped make the displays possible. You put the show in our show and give it a dimension that other clubs lack. THANK YOU!!!

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## **YOUR USED CAMERA OF THE PAST IS WORTH HOW MUCH IN 1998 PRICES?**

It took research by Henry Karsh of Watertown MA, a longtime member of the Photographic Historical Society of New England to assemble the data necessary to guide comparison of original camera costs vs. Today's money. From his study, the original \$25.00 of the first Kodak would be sold today at \$520.00. The \$10.00 Argus A of 1936 would be \$115.00. The Leica IIIc costing \$448.00 then would have to sell for \$3,220.00 today. Karsh's data shows that prices were a near-constant in the years from 1820 to 1900 before they began to climb to a present peak beginning about 1940. The sharpest rate of rise took place between 1972 and 1997. -- *PHSNE Journal, Issue #2, 1998.*